Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 OIC-02 IO-13 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 EA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 USIA-06 /110 W

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P R 231736Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4515 INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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FOR NEA/RA AND IO/OIC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 TAGS: CENTO

SUBJECT: CENTO MINISTERIAL

REF: STATE 72465

1. GORHAM, IN CHARGE OF CENTO AFFAIRS IN FCO, PHONED EMBOFF MARCH 22 AND RAISED SUBJECT OF AGENDA FOR THE FORTHCOMING CENTO MINISTERIAL. GORHAM SAID THE FCO IS CONCERNED BY THE POSSIBILITY THAT PAKISTAN MIGHT MAKE ANOTHER TRY TO PUSH THROUGH THE CONTROVERSIAL "POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER." IN ORDER TO FORESTALL THIS, FCO IS CONSIDERING WHETHER IT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE MERELY TO SUBSTITUTE AN UPDATED VERSION OF THE 1974 CENTO PAPER, "THE SITUATION IN THE CENTO AREA." HE WOULD LIKE THE DEPT'S THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT SO THAT US AND UK COULD COORDINATE IN ADVANCE OF ANY PAKISTANI MOVE.

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- 2. GORHAM ALSO SAID THAT FCO HAS HEARD A RUMOR THAT THE NEW CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL NOMINEE MAY PROPOSE TO VISIT ALL CENTO CAPITALS BEFORE THE CENTO MINISTERIAL. THE FCO WOULD NOT FAVOR SUCH A PROPOSAL BECAUSE THERE WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TIME.
- 3. GORHAM SAID THAT THE BRITISH DELEGATION TO THE

CENTO MINISTERIAL WOULD ACCORDING TO PRESENT PLANS BE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING: FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN; ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY WEIR; OWEN'S POLITICAL ADVISER J. D. STEPHEN; W. WHYTE, HEAD OF THE NEWS DEPT; PROBABLY MISS SANDERSON, DESK OFFICER FOR CENTO; AND PERSONAL ASSISTANTS AND PERSONAL SECRETARIES. FROM THE WASHINGTON END THEY WOULD BE JOINED BY BRITISH AMBASSADOR JAY, HEAD OF CHANCERY RUSSELL, AND A MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE.

STREATOR

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